

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

8 July 2021

COUNCILLOR SAM SANDELL - CABINET MEMBER FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

For the period 20 May to 29 June 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Since becoming a New Cabinet Member in May I have spent the last month getting to grips with the Portfolio and meeting with officers to help me get up to speed.

Home Choice

The monthly figures for the cabinet report on the Homechoice housing register are as follows

1101 live applicants on the register

2 emergency
138 high band
355 medium
606 low

178 new applications and changes of circumstances received during the month

35 properties let

Housing First

Five one bed self-contained flats in various locations in King's Lynn have been delivered by Broadland Housing Association. Clients have been moving in over the course of June and into early July. Support is in place and will remain with the client for as long as they require it. This is the first time this model has been delivered in the Borough. Housing First schemes focus on the most complex/entrenched rough sleepers and provides valuable resource in terms of intensive support, ending their rough sleeping and sustaining accommodation.

'Housing First is an internationally recognised based model of housing and support for those with chronic housing, health and social care needs. Housing First has been shown to be effective in supporting people with histories of street homelessness, or other types of homelessness where contact with services has been unsuccessful in breaking the cycle of instability'.

Winter Night Shelter

The Nightshelter is reopening in Oct 2021 until June 2022. The same model that was used last winter will continue to operate this year to provide covid secure accommodation that is available 24hours seven days per week. Nine rooms in total

will be available. We will continue to work closely with the Winter Night shelter to ensure there is an adequate supply of emergency accommodation for anyone needing assistance during the winter months and beyond.

New Move-On accommodation

Seven new 1 bed move-on flats in Kings Lynn are nearing completion and will be ready for occupation by the end of June 2021. The units are being delivered by Broadland Housing Association as part of Homes England Move-On fund.

First Homes

Changes to National Planning Policy in relation to First Homes will be implemented from 28th June 2021. These include a requirement for 25% of affordable housing contributions (via S.106 agreements) to be First Homes. First Homes are homes sold by developers to first time buyers with a 30% discount which is passed on to future purchasers in perpetuity. We are working closely with colleagues in Planning Policy to take account of these changes.

Community Safety & Neighbourhood Nuisance Team

Anti-social behaviour

There are a number of hot spot areas currently being addressed across King's Lynn. The behaviours are similar in all locations and principally revolve around littering, underage drinking, street drinking and dangerous inconsiderate use of vehicles and cycles. We are working with the Police, Norfolk County Council and YMC youth diversional workers to address these issues.

Where appropriate we are also serving fixed penalty notices for breaches of Public Space Protection Orders and will continue to take this and other formal action where the evidence allows.

General work

The team continues to support and participate in a number of multi-agency groups to tackle the causes of ASB some of which are listed below.

- County Lines Strategy Group
- Channel Panel and Prevent strategy group
- Domestic Violence and abuse group
- Youth Intervention and Safeguarding group (on hold due to workloads and lack of available provisions/agency support)
- Community Alcohol Partnership CAP (currently being developed and hopeful to be launched mid-September)
- Early Help Hub
- Local Safeguarding strategy group
- Hospital Frequent attendees

Housing Standards Team

Work is continuing on funding bids for a range of green homes initiatives. LAD2 (Local Authority Delivery – Phase 2) funding is being progressed with Freebridge and Broadland Housing to look at suitable areas for works to take place. The funding competition for LAD3 is also underway and this will be geared more towards low income households in the private rented and owner occupied sectors.

The new Fit & Proper Person Test for caravan site owners and managers comes into

force in July. This only covers specific residential sites and not holiday sites.

The team is also proactively enforcing the Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations and Electrical Safety Regulations and have completed a review of all current exemptions and are following up on three that require further investigation. We are also undertaking a desktop review of all rented properties that appear to have a low EPC and following up those that appear to be in breach of the regulations.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Full Council
Cabinet Briefings
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet Meeting
Local Plan Briefing
Portfolio Meetings with Various Officers
Environment and Community Meeting
Planning Meeting
Norfolk Community Safety Strategy Meeting
Management Team Cabinet Away Day
NHS CCG Kings Lynn Engagement Group
Local Plan Task Group